

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:RAMOSHER:DJW

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

EUR/EE: NGANDRE;S

H:HNELSON (INFO)

C:WTSHINN (INFO)

S/S:CABORG

----- 026099

R 190048Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 039655

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CGEN, BU, IT (CHAMURLISKY, NICOLA)

SUBJECT:TREASON CASE - NICOLA CHAMURLISKY

REF: ROME 817

1. DEPARTMENT PROPOSES THAT EMBASSY MAKE A CAREFULLY
TIMED APPROACH TO BULGARIAN MFA IN THE CASE OF NICOLA
CHAMURLISKY. EMBASSY'S PRESENTATION SHOULD EMPHASIZE
THAT ALTHOUGH MATTER RESTS ENTIRELY WITHIN BULGARIAN
JURISDICTION, HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS IMPEL US TO
BRING THIS CASE TO BULGARIAN ATTENTION AND TO SUGGEST
POSSIBILITY OF REDUCTION OF HIS SENTENCE.

--- YOU SHOULD STATE THAT MR. CHAMURLISKY'S BROTHER, WHO
IS A U.S. CITIZEN, HAS ASKED US, THROUGH A NUMBER OF
INTERESTED CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS, TO ATTEMPT TO
INTERCEDE IN THIS CASE. YOU SHOULD ALSO STATE THAT WE
UNDERSTAND THAT MR. CHAMURLISKY WAS SENTENCED TO BE
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EXECUTED BUT THAT WE ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE PRECISE

CHARGES AGAINST HIM OR THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS ARREST.
HOWEVER, YOU MIGHT POINT OUT THAT A REDUCTION OF SENTENCE
WOULD CONVEY A VERY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF BULGARIAN
MODERATION AND COMPASSION TO NUMEROUS INTERESTED SENATORS
AND CONGRESSMEN. FINALLY, WE BELIEVE A REDUCTION OF

SENTENCE WOULD BE IN HARMONY WITH THE GENERAL STRIVING IN
EUROPE FOR A PROGRESSIVE REDUCTION OF TENSIONS.

. THE TIMING OF THIS APPROACH MUST BE CAREFULLY ARRANGED SO
AS NOT TO DISTURB ITALIAN INTERESTS AS OUTLINED REFTEL.
ALSO, IT SHOULD BE MADE BEFORE REPEAT BEFORE THE BULGARIANS
HAVE REACHED A FINAL DECISION IN THE APPEAL PROCESS, ON THE
ASSUMPTION THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO
EFFECT ANY REDUCTION IN SENTENCE AFTER THE BULGARIANS
HAVE RENDERED THEIR DECISION. WITH THIS IN MIND YOU
MIGHT MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH MR. CHAMURLISKY'S LAWYER,
R. KAMEN PETROV, AND WITH THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN SOFIA.
INGERSOLL

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